

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-12 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 8 being the independent claims. No claims are sought to be added, amended or cancelled.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-12 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable claims 1-28 of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,335. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimers concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting. The filing of this Terminal Disclaimer is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsiders and withdraws the rejection.

Other Matters

In the present office action, the Examiner suggested that the Specification be amended to include an indication that that parent application issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,724,335. The specification has been amended herein to include the Examiner's suggestion.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michael D. Specht
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 54,463

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
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